Proposal of Port Blair as a Free Port

1994. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any proposal from the Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Island for the development of Port Blair as a free port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon and if no decision has been taken what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. No specific proposal for development of Port Blair as a free port has been received from the Andaman & Nicobar Island Administration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds for EPZ, Kandla

1995. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Processing Zone, Kandla had urged the Central Government to provide more funds to implement the development schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allotted during 1993-94;

(d) the amount utilised and the new projects undertaken during 1993-94; and

(e) the new projects to be undertaken during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Implementation of development schemes in Export Processing Zones is an ongoing process for which funds are provided out of annual budget allocations. The specific work; undertaken and the amount spent thereon by the Kandla Free Trade Zone during 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as follows:—

S.No.	Description of work	Amount spent (Rs. lakhs)
	1993-94	
1.	11Nos. Industrial sheds	129.15
2.	10 Nos. staff quarters	27.46
3.	Roads in the extended area	29.47
4.	Other infrastructural work	7.29
		193.29
	1994-95	
1.	8 Nos. Industrial sheds	108.68
2.	10 Nos. Staff quarters	30.30
3.	Water tank with 5 lakh litre capacity	7.87
4.	Purchase of city office accommodation at Ahmedabad	17.50
5.	Other infrastructural works	35.34
		199.69

Campaign to Boost Rice-export

1996. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched an aggressive campaign to bost its rice export especially the non-basmati variety to West Asia;

(b) if so, what are the full details thereof; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken to ensure that India's rice export would increase in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The steps taken to promote export of rice include, *inter-alia*, conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad;

participating in International Trade Fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Export target for agricultural and allied commodities

1997. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed an export target for the export of agricultural and allied commodities during the year 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to encourage export of agricultural commodities and processed foods from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) No targets for the export of agricultural items have been fixed. The policy of the Government is to encourage export of agricultural and allied commodities keeping in view domestic availability and requirements.

(b) Steps taken to encourage export of agricultural commodities and processed foods include, *inter-alia,* simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and Quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of ECUs/EPZs to agriculture sector and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, lowering of custom duties on various items required by the processed food industries, encouraging export of value added items and enhancing quality and productivity, provision of assistance to exporters for purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of precooling facilities with proper air-handling systems, improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging byer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/ exhibitions.

Trade with China, USA and Russia

1998. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of trade undertaken with China, USA and Russia during the last three years; and

(b) the number of trade delegations exchanged between India and the aforesaid countries during this period to promote international trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The details of the trade undertaken with China, USA and Russia are as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	China		USA		Russia	
	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
1991-92	119	53	7201	4917	4043	1796
1992-93	409	737	10183	6219	1756	737
1993-94	875	945	13256	8584	2037	1193
1994-95 (Upto Sept.)	366	1072	7631	4001	1110	733